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ABSTRACT

Designing schools to make them more earthquake resistant and protect children from the catastrophic collapse of the school building is discussed in this videotape. It reveals that 44 of the 50 U.S. states are vulnerable to earthquake, but most schools are structurally unprepared to take on the stresses that earthquakes exert. The cost to the community to rebuild destroyed school buildings is large; but just as important is that schools often help support the community's recovery efforts following a disaster, so the loss of the school building impedes that effort. Schools can be designed to resist earthquakes, and the types of design considerations needed to avoid structural collapse are examined. Both exterior and interior considerations in seismic design are explored, and the proof that seismic design works in preventing school building damage and the relative cost of incorporating this design approach are discussed. (GR)

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